

El Niño Preparation Plan

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NWS Forecast

- Strongest El Nino ever recorded
- More winter storms (24 instead of 15)
- More snow (102" average, could see 135")
- Average over the last 4 years is 70"

El Niño Preparation Plan

Emergency Management





Coordination

Planning Meetings Held With:

- DEMA
- ADOT
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Red Cross
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
- Northern Arizona Emergency Management



Exercises

Winter storm table-top and functional exercises conducted or planned for:

- County leadership
- City of Flagstaff leadership
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
- County / City Emergency Operations Center Team



Procedures

- Severe Weather / Delayed Start Guide updated
- Partial EOC activations in anticipation of predicted severe weather
- CodeRED notifications for NWS Winter Storm Warnings
- Updated list of private snow removal companies

El Niño Preparation Plan

Public Works



Expected Conditions

- **Primary issue is expected to be more frequent storms**
- **Impacts employee resiliency**
- **Impacts condition of equipment**
- **Requires significantly more coordination internally and with Sheriff's Office, Fire Districts, & Other Agencies**
- **Requires proactive public communications and significant ability to respond to public during events**

El Niño Plan Elements

- Staffing
- Equipment
- Materials
- Road Closure Preparation
- Contracted Resources
- Dispatch
- School Bus Routes
- Sandbags
- Communications

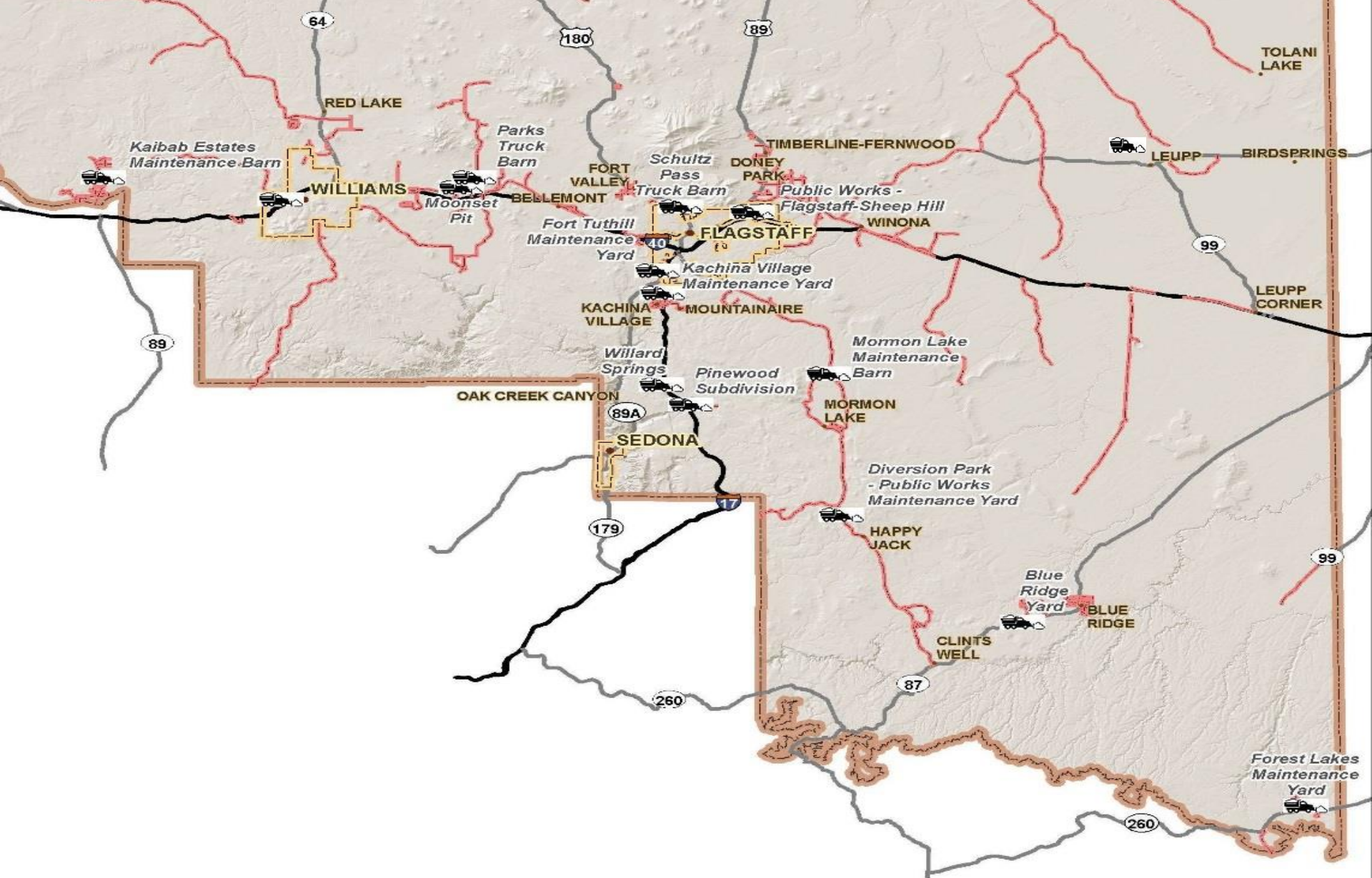


Staffing

- Recruit & fill existing vacant Operator positions (8)
- Recruit & fill Temporary Snow Operator positions (Target 18)
- Recruit & fill Operator Trainee positions (2)
- Detail responsibilities for Trades Division Supervisors
- Develop staff deployment plan – will use “Right Place, Right Time” Snow Plan strategies during early and late season when temperatures are generally milder and storms are smaller

Equipment

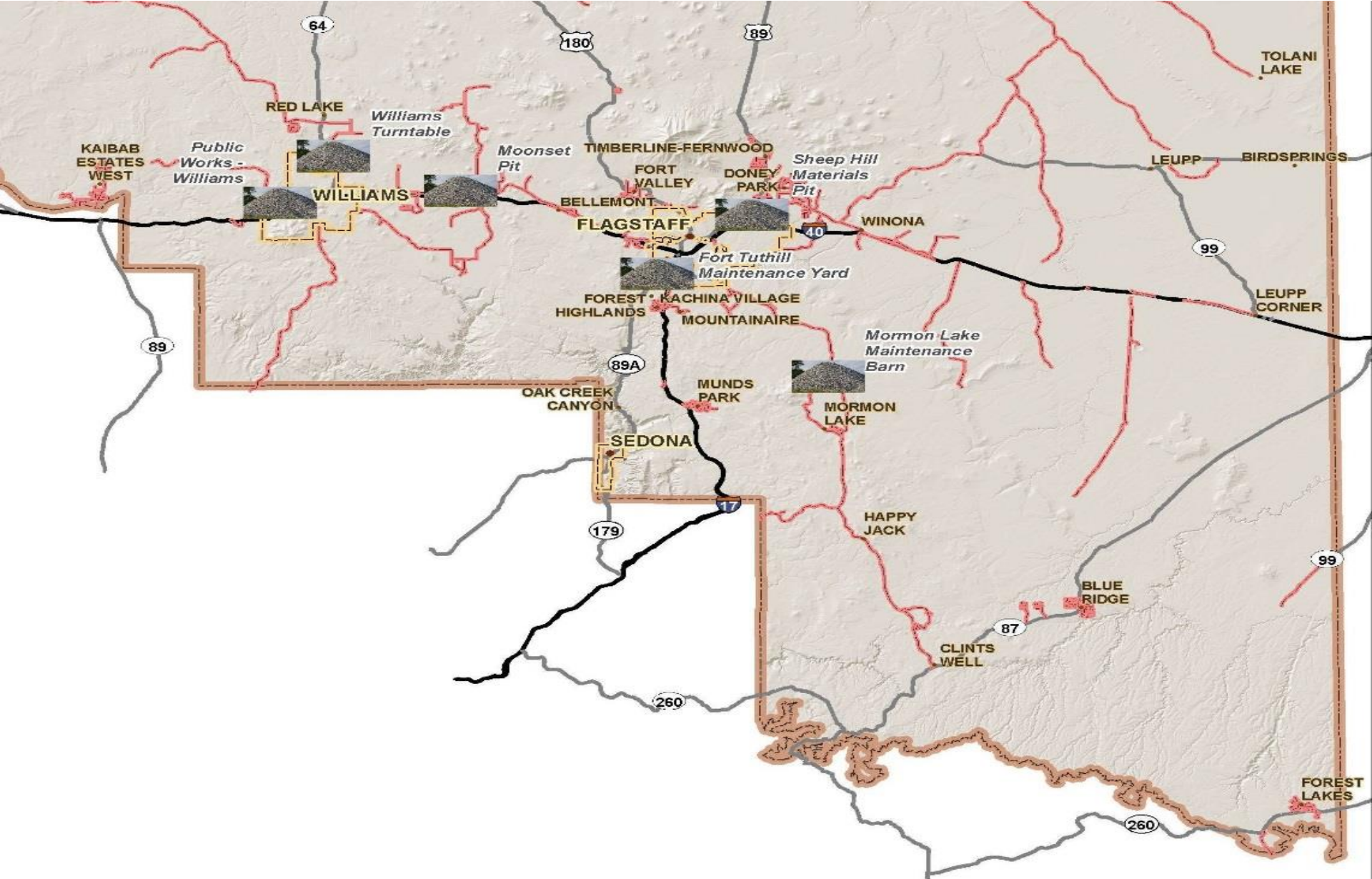
- **Prepare equipment for snow season**
- **Prepare Sheriff's Office equipment for snow season**
- **Order new chains, prep and install**
- **Establish arrangement to rent equipment if needed**
- **Establish triggers for renting equipment & how it will be used**
- **Pre-place equipment (see map)**



Materials

- Order Ice Control Cinders
- Pre-Place Cinders (see map)





Legend



Public Works Materials Locations

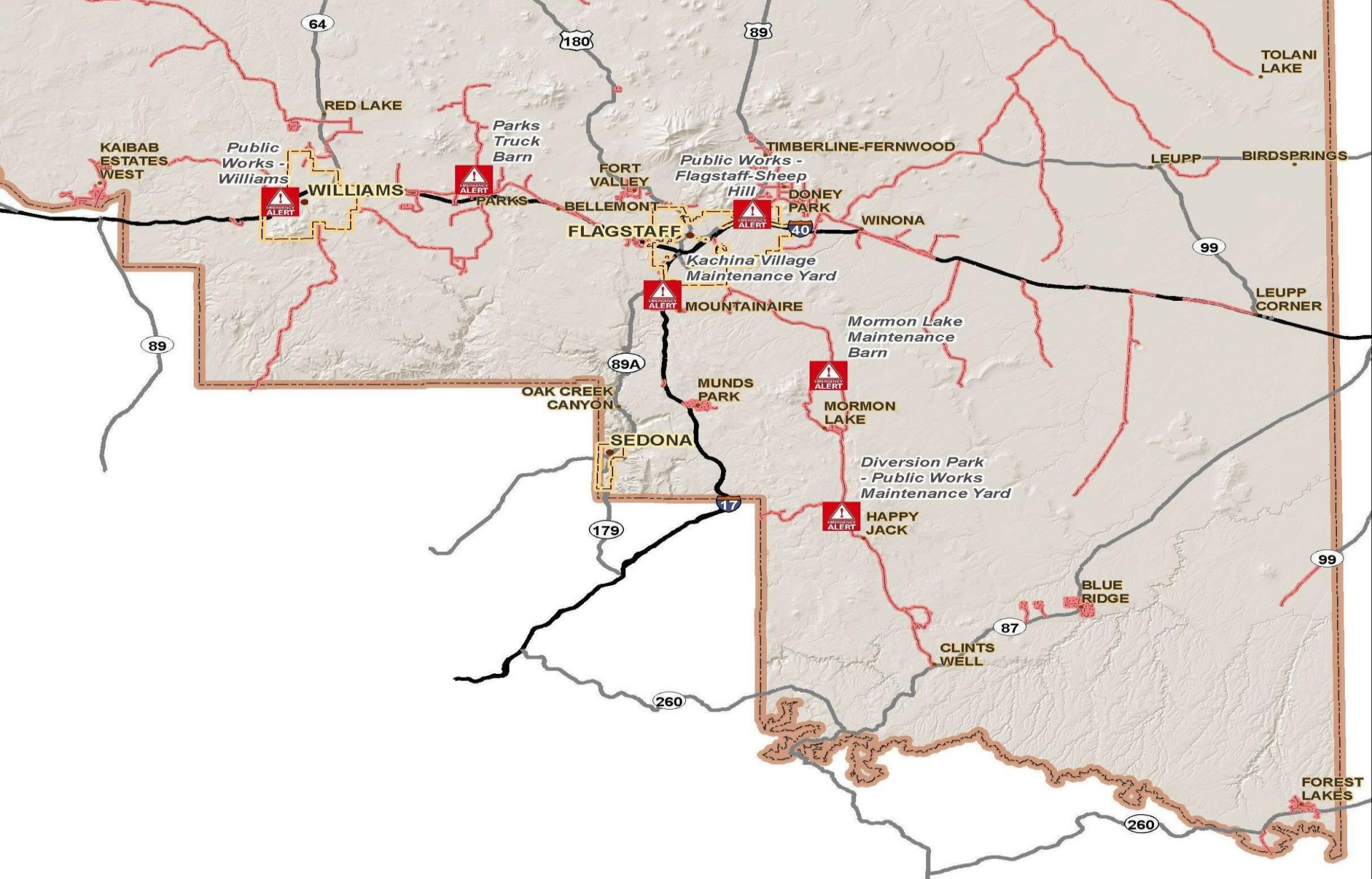
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  County Maintained Roads
-  INTERSTATE
-  HIGHWAY

Coconino County Snow Preparedness Materials Locations

Road Closure Preparation

- Identify roads that may be closed during major events
- Establish snow level thresholds for road closures
- Secure signs for road closures
- Prepare electronic signs for usage including messaging
- Identify locations for signage
- Prepare press release





Coconino County Snow Preparedness Potential Road Closure Sign Locations

Legend

-  Public Works Sign Set Locations
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  County Maintained Roads
-  INTERSTATE
-  HIGHWAY

Contracted Resources

- Contact JOCs to secure their ability to provide operators and equipment and time allocated for deployment
- Excellent response from JOCs
- Develop plan for successfully utilizing contracted resources
- Meet with contractors prior to season to share plan
- Deploy as needed



Dispatch

- Revisit Dispatch protocol and road condition update process
- Meet with Sheriff's Office and clarify communications through PW Dispatch
- Dispatch responsible for responding to phone calls from the public
- Dispatch responsible for coordinating with other agencies like ADOT, COF, DPS, Etc.



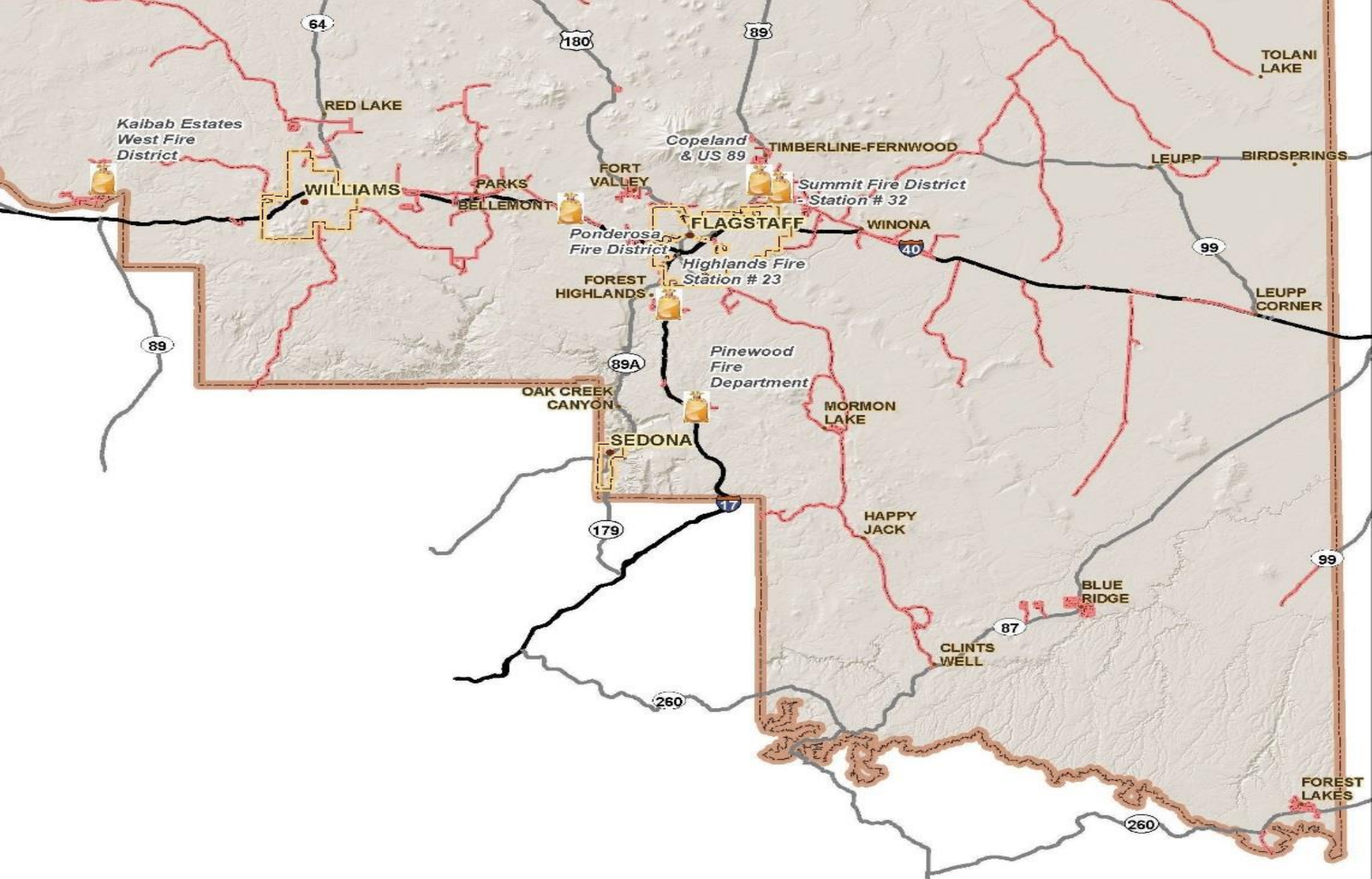
School Bus Routes

- Secure school bus route maps from school districts
- Pre-season communication with school districts through Superintendent of Schools
- Work with School Districts during the season to modify our routes or their school bus routes as needed based on road conditions



Sandbags

- Pre-Season deployment of sand bags to fire districts (see map)
- Pre-made sand bags staged at Sheep Hill
- Ample sand bags stored at Sheep Hill
- Contractor will be identified to provide additional sand bags to fire districts if needed
- Contractor resources will be used if more sand bags need to be filled



Coconino County Snow Preparedness Sandbag Locations

Communications

- **Board Work Session**
- **Several meetings with National Weather Service**
- **Continuing Snow Director Schedule & Process**
- **Conducting joint meetings with key agencies (Sheriff's Office, ADOT, COF, PFAC)**
- **Communication on parking restrictions in Munds Park, Kachina Village and Mountainaire**
- **Letter to utilities about impacts to their facilities**
- **Letters to private property owners on private roads where there were issues in 2010**

Communications

- **Pre-Season preparation of standard press releases**
- **Contribute to overall County El Nino Communications Plan**
- **Prepare PW contributions to general media communications and messages**
- **Review Q&A for responding to phone calls**
- **Support EOC**
- **Reviewed Plan during Safety Day with all Public Works Staff**



Public Information

Pre-Season Messaging

- Winter preparedness tips
- Explanation of the potential severity of the upcoming winter season
- Flood insurance
- Coordination with other agencies



Public Information

Pre-storm Messaging

- County messaging consistent with NWS
- Stay home and off roads if possible
- Be prepared to stay home for long periods (72 hours of food, water, etc)
- Plan for possible power outages
- Safe alternative means to cook and heat home without electricity



Public Information

During the Storm

Plans are in place for proactive messaging during the storm event. However, the content is dependent on the effects of the storm



Public Information

Press Release



Coconino County Board of Supervisors

District 1 Supervisor Art Babbott
District 2 Supervisor Liz Archuleta
District 3 Supervisor Matt Ryan
District 4 Supervisor Mandy Metzger
District 5 Supervisor Lena Fowler

For Immediate Release



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November 10, 2015

Strong El Nino Weather Pattern Calls for Increased Winter Preparedness

Possibility of more frequent storms expected this winter in Northern Arizona

Flagstaff, Ariz. — The National Weather Service is reporting a wetter-than-usual fall and winter season for northern Arizona in 2015-16 due to a strong El Nino weather pattern — this means winter preparedness is more important than in recent years for Coconino County residents.

The last time Coconino County experienced a similar winter was 2009 -2010, when 40-60 inches of snow fell across northern Arizona, leaving approximately 14,000 homes without power, causing significant property damage by heavy snow and snowmelt flooding. There is a 95-percent chance El Nino will continue into winter 2015-16.

This weather pattern brings with it the possibility of more frequent winter storms (but not necessarily bigger storms), an enhanced risk of heavy snow loads and ice dam formations on roofs, and the threat of high water in primary streams and rivers. Here's what residents can do to be prepared for impending winter storms:

Questions/Comments

